

Title: Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus

Passage: Luke 24: 1-35

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What should you do if others reject you or your testimony when you share your faith?
 - How are your expectations of the Christian life sometimes changed by life's trials?
 - What could you do this week to make yourself more sensitive to the Lord's leading in your life?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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EXPOSITION

Introduction

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

- No one who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus has ever recanted that it was instead a hoax.
 - Some were imprisoned and some were tortured, but all endured believing in Jesus.

Luke 24:1-2

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

But on the first day of the week

- Since then, the church has been gathering on Sunday as the first day of the week.
 - Why? Celebration of the resurrection.
 - Reflects the great weight of its importance.

- Contrast: Jews previously treated Sunday as the Sabbath as not doing any work. Only met on Saturday but never on Sunday.

they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared

- they = women who saw Jesus crucified and saw him buried

Luke 23:55-56

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

- Jesus was buried in a tomb that was covered by a stone.

Luke 24:3-4a

but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this,

- When the women arrived, the tomb was empty!
- Perplexed = they were not expecting any resurrection.
 - They expected otherwise a body to be there.

Luke 24:4b-5a

behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them,

- All the Gospels compliment each other. Another Gospel says one angel spoke (not meaning there was only one angel present but that merely that one of the two angels spoke)

Luke 24:5b-6

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee

- Angels gave a rebuke where they asked why did they come?

Luke 24:7

the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

Son of Man

- specific designation pointed to prophecy written by Daniel

Daniel 7:13-14

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- One would come who would come as a man (human) but also have divine characteristics with an eternal kingdom.
 - One who is fully man and divine
- Here, Jesus says He is the Son of Man (both fully human and divine)

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified

- Who delivered Jesus? God the Father

John 10:18

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- Jesus willingly laid down his life

Why did Jesus need to be crucified?

- Because of sin.
 - Every human has a sinful nature.
 - No one teaches one to say "no" or to lie.
 - We are born to do what we each want to do.
- Sin must be punished because God is holy and just.
 - Old Testament: animal sacrifices symbolized that the penalty for sin is death. Something has to die for sin.
 - One day, all looked forward to the One perfect sacrifice to pay the eternal punishment for our sins.
- Jesus

- He lived the perfect life (inwardly and outwardly)
 - He had perfect righteousness.
- He died on the cross
 - He took on Himself the full wrath of God for our sins.
- Upon belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior:
 - You are covered by Jesus' righteousness and justified before Him (He sees you as if you have never sinned)

Romans 10:9

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- He provides the Holy Spirit to empower you to follow Him and be in a relationship with Him.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Luke 24:8-10

And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

- Women
 - So impacted by the ministry of Jesus to see his crucifixion and to witness His resurrection.
 - Previously, women were treated as second-class citizens.
 - But Jesus came to treat women with equal dignity and value.
 - No other religion does so
 - Proof of the resurrection
 - If you were making a story up, you would never have women as the first eyewitnesses.

- Instead, you would create the humanly strongest witnesses to testify thereafter.

Luke 24:11

but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

- The disciples discounted the women's testimony of the empty tomb.
 - The disciples had previously fled the Garden of Gethsemane and were afraid for their lives.
 - They were not quick to believe in the resurrection.
 - Further proof of the resurrection - this was not created out of fiction but factual history.
- The disciples first responded to the news with skepticism.

Luke 24:12

But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

- Peter took the effort to see for himself the news.
 - He previously had denied knowing Jesus three times.
 - Now, he had to
- Likewise, don't trust yourself
 - Doubt your doubts
 - Examine what you hear for yourself.

APPLICATION

If a Christian: Be patient with those who mistrust the resurrection.

- After sharing the Gospel, be prepared to respond to skepticism and questions.
 - Don't be discouraged or discount times when people do not quickly accept.
- We are to love God with all our heart, soul, and minds as well.
- Remember, Christianity is about the truth.
 - Contrast: Other religions
 - One person has a special revelation and you cannot question it at all because it must have come from God or otherwise "feel" it is true.

- That is foolish.
- What do you base your life on?
 - “There is no god.”
 - You believe that the world came from nothing including all humans and yourself? That is foolish.
- The Bible is the most historically reliable truth.
 - Believe Jesus is alive because the Bible says it is true and the Bible is the inerrant word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

If a Christian: God keeps His promises

- Jesus has promise
 - Nothing will happen in your life outside of His will and purposes.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

If not a Christian: There will be judgment

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Hebrews 13:20-21

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”